City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
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Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on April 9, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, J. Harris at 6:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 11 - Co-Chair – Councillor J. Harris
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston
J. Babcock
C. Hassey
A. Jones
J. Massie
J. M. Pigeon
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt
K. Watson

Absent: 4 - Co-Chair M. Sachkiw
T. Gardiner
W. Hay
L. Palson

COMMITTEE BUDGET UPDATE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committee's budget.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

Wendy Cooke, City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services Department provided an update concerning the Youth Ambassador Program. The Committee asked a number of questions concerning options to continue the Youth Ambassador Program of Ms. Cooke and received responses. Ms. Cooke advised that she will follow up with the Committee at a future meeting.

Shannon Scully-Pratt provided highlights of the Emperors Ball that she recently attended in Toronto. Ms. Scully will coordinate a meeting with representatives from Murayama, Japan concerning the youth ambassador program.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives program at Innisdale Secondary School including activities with students from Niels Brock.

Mr. Babcock stated that Innisdale Secondary School are still accepting applications for the 2025/2026 Global Perspectives Program. He advised that the Simcoe County District School Board has added the names of Mayor, A. Nuttall, Councillor, J. Harris and Bill Sergeant to an approved list of speakers for Innisdale Secondary School.

Kelly Watson of Georgian College advised that are plans for college students to travel to Germany to study abroad.

COMMITTEE'S ROLE WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVEST BARRIE

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided a presentation concerning Invest Barrie Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2025 Work Plan and Considerations.

Ms. Schlichter discussed the slides concerning the following topics:

- The goals of Invest Barrie;
- The key focus of Invest Barrie;
- Investment Attraction Workplan;
- Invest Barrie Actions;
- Summary of the current global context;
- Potential impact to local businesses;
- Invest Barrie local response;
- Expanding Global Opportunities; and
- The Committee's role to support Invest Barrie.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Schlichter and received responses.

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE

The Committee discussed the first anniversary of the twinning relationship with Saginaw, Michigan on May 30, 2025, and potential student exchange opportunities with Georgian College.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN UPDATE

There was no update provided.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE

Jean Maurice Pigeon provided an update concerning Zweibrucken, Germany. He discussed coordinating plans for a small delegation from Germany to visit Canada in September 2025 who are interested in connecting with a hospital who has a Magnet designation.

Mr. Pigeon described plans for a hockey team exchange between Germany and Barrie in 2026 with a reciprocal visit planned for 2027. Mr. Pigeon advised that 2027 will be the 30th anniversary of the twinning relationship between the two cities.

Jean Maurice Pigeon provided a historical background of the Stolperstein project in Germany which is the laying of a stone to commemorate people at the last place they resided, worked or studied in Germany. Members of Committee asked questions of Mr. Pigeon related to this project, including the potential for the Committee to support this initiative. Mr. Pigeon will report back at a future meeting.

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom. He advised Jean Maurice Pigeon and himself assisted Georgian College with touring students from Harrogate around the local area

Mr. Sergeant advised that preparations are taking place to recognize Sir Robert Barrie Day on June 7. 2025.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

There was no update provided.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bill Sergeant advised that there was nothing new to report regarding the Sir Robert Barrie Project, with the exception of the recognition of Sir Robert Barrie Day on June 7, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

CHAIRMAN